

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's Advisory Action of January 4, 2007 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Request for Continued Examination and Amendment to the claims, and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is amended to omit recitation of the fluid distribution member and to specify that complementary female and male end portions of the support members are configured to interconnect the modules together and to connect with the respective fluid connectors. Support for this amendment can be found in pending dependent claim 2 and at page 9, line 34-page 10, line 29 of the present specification;

dependent claim 2 is amended to conform with amended independent claim 1; and
claims 3-8 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of above-described amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-8 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by Silverbrook '082 in view of one or more of Silverbrook '155 and Wong, for at least the following reasons.

As discussed above, independent claim 1 has been further amended to specify the complementary female and male end portions 45 and 46 of the fluid channel members 40 which allow secure interconnection of the printhead modules 30 as well as connection of the channels of the fluid channel members to the fluid delivery connectors 47 and 48. In this way, scalable modularity of the printhead assembly is easily and effectively provided (see page 9, line 34-page 10, line 29 of the present specification).

On the other hand, in Silverbrook '082 the ink reservoir assembly 70 is made of the ink distribution arrangements 72 on which respective ones of the printhead modules 46 are positioned. As can be clearly seen from Fig. 8 of Silverbrook '082, the ink distribution arrangements do not have complementary female and male end portions for interconnection. Rather, it appears that the ink distribution arrangements are held together by a clipping arrangement, which is also used to connect the end most ink distribution arrangement with the end cap module 78 (see col. 5, line 48-col. 6, line 16 of Silverbrook '082).

Thus, contrary to the Examiner's contentions (i.e., in the rejection to pending claim 2 in the (second) final Office Action), the "printhead modules" of Silverbrook '082 do not have the interconnection arrangement required by amended independent claim 1.

Further, Silverbrook '155 merely discloses that the "printhead modules" are commonly mounted on the one distribution molding 35 (see paragraph [0068] of Silverbrook '155) and Wong merely discloses ink jet pens for a non-modular, reciprocating printhead (see abstract of Wong).

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-8 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by Silverbrook '082 and '155 and Wong either taken alone or in combination with one another.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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